

**FINAL / Minutes of the Tree and Landscape Board
City Hall, City of College Park
February 19, 2014**

<u>Members</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Brenda Alexander, Public Works Deputy Director	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Steven Beavers, Planning Representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dennis Herschbach, Member	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
John Krouse, Member	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
John Lea-Cox, City Forester	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Amelia Murdoch, Member	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mark Wimer, Chairperson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CBE Liaison, Gemma Evans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Also present: Bill Gardiner, Assistant City Manager
Alan Hew, District 4 City Councilmember

Chairperson Wimer called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

I. Approval of the Meeting Minutes

Motion: To adopt the February 19, 2014 Tree and Landscape Board meeting minutes.

Moved: Mr. Krouse

Second: Dr. Lea-Cox

Approval of the February 19, 2014 Tree and Landscape Board meeting minutes, as amended:

Aye: Unanimous

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

II. CBE Liaison Report

CBE Liaison Janis Oppelt has scheduled a speaker, Lincoln Smith, to conduct a permaculture workshop that will be held on Saturday, March 15, 2014, at 10:00 a.m.

A resident, who seemed quite upset, approached CBE Liaison Gemma Evans regarding the number of mature trees that have been recently cut down by home owners. The resident wanted to know what CBE could do about it or suggested enacting a Tree Removal policy similar to the one in Takoma Park. Councilmember Hew stated that the City website does not include an ordinance to prevent residents from removing trees from their private property. Ms. Evans stated that the Prince George's County Rain Check Rebate Program reimburses county residents between \$100 and \$150 for the purchase of a tree that is selected from a list of approved species. Chairperson Wimer stated that the TLB had previously discussed providing incentives to residents to plant trees on their property.

Mr. Krouse suggested that the Committee for a Better Environment (CBE) provide funding from their budget to buy trees for purchase by residents as a pilot program, and then contact the City Council for funding if the program is successful. He suggested requiring residents to place pre-orders, and then delivering the trees to the residents on a designated date in October when they will have the most success for planting. It was estimated that \$2,500-\$3,000 should be allocated

by the CBE for the purchase of approximately 200 trees. Dr. Lea-Cox suggested providing residents with a list of suitable trees that are highly encouraged for planting to educate residents about their diversity, wildlife value, etc.

III. M-NCPPC Airport Tree Trimming

Dr. Lea-Cox suggested extending an invitation to Prince George's County Councilmember Eric Olsen to attend the March 4, 2014 work session to discuss the airport tree trimming issue.

A letter from the TLB will be included in a packet to the County Council.

IV. Hollywood Gateway Park

Mr. Beavers, Planning Representative, provided the architectural plans and plant selections for the Hollywood Gateway Park. Mr. Krouse was concerned about the large quantity of plant beds selected for the Hollywood Gateway Park, in comparison to the small park area, which may cause visibility issues, accumulate a large amount of biomass, and will require maintenance. Plant selections were discussed by the members, and Ms. Alexander was requested to make revisions and recommendations to the landscape planting plan.

V. Rhode Island Avenue Green Street Implementation Project

Mr. Beavers provided a copy of the architectural plans and a tentative plant list for the proposed Rhode Island Avenue Green Street Implementation Project. He explained that the plans, which were developed in August 2013, illustrate a 30% design of the low impact development center, and that the City has applied to the Chesapeake Bay Trust for \$80,000 in funding to complete the design and construction. The City will be notified by the end of May 2014 regarding approval of the grant. Plant selections and the bioswale maintenance plan were discussed by the members.

VI. Public Works

- The landscape crews worked in the Estates in Yarrow along Edmonston Road, which is an annual cleanup, to remove vines and trash from the screen planting; they also pruned approximately 120 street trees, mainly for elevation.
- The landscape crews cut tree limbs from a leaning mulberry tree that were hanging over the fence from the adjacent property at Old Town playground; they also pruned the Russian olives along the fence line.
- The crews are still doing snow removal.
- Public Works responded to four events in January 2014.
- The Spencer Harris Awards Breakfast was held the end of January 2014 to recognize safe drivers (CDL and non-CDL), as well as other Public Works personnel who provided good service throughout the year.
- Smart Leaf is available for pickup; curbside leaf collection has been completed; collected 6,270 cubic yards of leaves and accepted 5,655 cubic yards of leaves from other municipalities.
- The tub grinder operator will be coming the beginning of March 2014 to tub grind the brush pile for fresh mulch; pickup only from now until approximately mid-March 2014.

VII. Other Business

Ms. Alexander, Public Works Deputy Director, reminded members that it is time to plan for Arbor Day, which will be held in April 2014.

VIII. Adjournment

The TLB meeting adjourned at 9:16 p.m. The next TLB meeting is scheduled for March 19 at 7:00 p.m. in City Hall.

Minutes prepared by Debra Pinkett, Contract Secretary for the City of College Park